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"Though his taking his hatchet in his hand at the instant I drew near to him, had a disagreeable appearance, I believe he had no other intent than to be in readiness in case any violence was offered to him."

It is evident from various accounts that not only the Indians of North America, but also those called savages of different other nations are capable of receiving the best impressions, where care is taken to meet them on proper grounds, and to deal with them on pacific principles, but where measures of a contrary tendency have been adopted, which fatal experience proves to have been too often the case, the angry passions have been excited, and the cry of vengeance raised, the most bloody conflicts have ensued, and a most irreconcilable hatred taken place. Surely this is no worse than what frequently happens between those called civilized states. A small real, or supposed injury frequently operates on the minds of the injured in such a manner as to cause them to seek for an opportunity to retaliate. Retaliation begets retaliation and swells into mutual rage. In this disposition measures of a sanguinary nature are restored to, and made to follow each other in rapid succession, until, as a torrent, impatient of its bounds, the whole bursts forth, and overwhelms in all the horrors of war, the peace and prosperity of kingdoms. In the struggle for ascendancy, and striving for superiority the nations are made to partake of the yoke of oppression, and the lives of thousands are sported with to a degree of unfeeling barbarity, equal to any thing we can suppose to take place among those denominated savage tribes.

Happy had it been for all if they who commenced adventurers, and became the settlers of newly-acquired territories had from their first arrival

cultivated a spirit of peace, and avoided in all their proceedings with the natives every occasion of giving offence. But the motive to engage in these adventures too generally spring from a thirst of gain, and it is not to be wondered that fatal consequences often followed. The love of gain has a dangerous tendency; we behold it sacrificing to its gratification every just and generous consideration.

With what different sensations of pleasure and regret do we remember the mild, candid, and generous conduct of a Columbus and a Penn, and the dark, treacherous, and blood-thirsty designs of a Cortez and a Pizarro. The memories of the former claim love and veneration, while those of the latter descend to posterity with merited reproach and detestation. It is a melancholy reflection, that the page of history is stained with so many characters too near the latter description, and unable to exhibit so few of the former.

We boast of living in more enlightened times, but with all our boasted degrees of light and knowledge, I wish we may be really advancing in the steps towards properly civilized life. N. S.

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*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

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ACCOUNT OF THE FALLS OF NIAGARA.  
EXTRACTED FROM A LETTER OF A  
GENTLEMAN TO HIS FRIEND IN HUD-  
SON, STATE OF NEW-YORK.

**A** GREEABLY to my promise, I will endeavour to give my ideas of the great falls of Niagara, as I have several times viewed them, and strange as it may appear, always with pleasure, admiration and horror! I have never taken the angles of elevation or depression, so as to make an accurate mathematical

calculation of the height of the falls, the descent of the rapids above, or the depth of the gulph containing the great whirlpool below, nor have I taken the distance across the river. For an exact account of these particulars I must rely on the reports of other writers. I have also to regret that I have neither time at present, nor mathematical instruments at hand to make a map, or drawing of this great natural curiosity.

In order to form an adequate idea of the immense quantity of water contained in this river, it is necessary to know something of the great chain of lakes extending thousands of miles above it, and of the many large rivers, and multitudes of smaller streams which continually empty themselves into those lakes on all sides, and from every direction: and that all the waters of those immense lakes (a single one of which constitutes the greatest body of fresh water in the known world,) unite and form the Niagara, which in my opinion, exhibits to the eye of the philosopher, more scenes of beauty, power, grandeur, and in some places alarm and horror, than any river on earth.

Think, my friend, how very abundant must be its resources, if the greatest droughts cause little or no diminution of its waters. Or what must be its current and incalculable power of discharge, if the greatest rains and the highest floods are hardly perceivable in this noble river. Its upper end adjoining Lake Erie, is smooth, placid, and beautiful in the extreme, extending about three miles in width, with a very gentle current, but as we descend, it increases, and the river contracts to about two miles in width, and this continues for nearly twenty miles, with a very strong current and great depth, till it reaches the steep and rocky, roaring, foaming white ra-

pids immediately above the falls. Here the banks of the river suddenly verge towards each other, so as to leave a gap of only three quarters of a mile wide at the falls.

The length of the rapids are said to be only one mile, but when I stood at the falls, and looked up the river, through the mist which continually rises from the apparent explosions, and tremendous dashings of such an immense body of fine clear water, against multitudes of large high rocks, the distance is wonderfully magnified by the mist, and appeared to be six or eight miles.

Several small islands covered with timber trees (but whose foundations must be rock, or they would suddenly be torn away) are interspersed in those terrible rapids, one of which is situated about one-third of the distance from the American, towards the Canada shore, and projects quite down to the falls, so as to disunite the falling sheet of water for the space of perhaps an hundred yards.

Standing on the Canada side close to, and immediately above the falls, the view up the rapids is truly sublime and perfectly romantic. Neither the pen of the geographer, nor the pencil of the painter can give an idea half equal to the original. But when I cast my eyes down the awful yawning gulph beneath, and beheld this vast body of water, rushing down with an irresistible force near one hundred and fifty feet perpendicular, with a noise that may be heard twenty miles, and a power which makes the earth tremble for a considerable distance around, I confess I was almost lost in the horrors of the scene, and in the contemplation of my own littleness!

Immediately below the falling sheet, which is said to be sixty feet thick, are to be seen multitudes of exploding globes of water of a large size, rising out of the river. A thick

white cloud of vapours, similar to a vast snow bank envelopes above an hundred feet of the lower part of the sheet, so as to render it quite invisible.

Whenever the sun shines, beautiful rainbows are seen in the ascending cloud or vapours, which constantly arise from the bottom of the falls in such vast quantities, as to produce a continual fall of rain for a considerable distance around; which in the winter season being congealed into ice, makes a most beautiful crystalline appearance in the trees of the adjacent forests.

About six miles below the falls, I viewed the great whirl in the river, or rather in the side of the mountain; which I was told was a curiosity nearly equal to the falls. The cause of this curious phenomenon, is a right angle or short turn in the river, immediately above which is a very strong roaring rapid, which rushing violently down against the opposite shore, has in the course of time worn away perhaps three or four hundred acres. Within this eddy or chasm, are collected great quantities of drift wood, from whence I believe it seldom escapes, and floating continually round in the gulph, shows the rapid whirling motion of the water. It is encircled by a perpendicular rock about 300 feet high; standing on the top of this rock, I viewed with humble fear, perfect horror and surprise, the awful yawning, whirling gulph beneath!

Perhaps the state of New-York contains more natural and artificial curiosities than any other in the Union, many of which are nearly arranged in a direct rout from New-York to the Niagara falls. The Hudson's river with its steam boats, and numerous other vessels; the many flourishing towns and cities on its banks; with the beautiful, lofty Kaatskill mountains, and the great

falls (called the Cohooz) on Mohawk river certainly exhibit an agreeable, entertaining, and picturesque scene to the traveller. The Believers or Shakers meeting at Niskaunia, where singing and dancing constitute the solemn worship of a christian church, I have visited with admiration. The medicinal waters of Ballstown spa; are, I presume, equal to any in the world; and the salt springs at Anauga are better than any I know of. The great fresh water spring, forty miles long, and several miles wide, called Seneca Lake, which never freezes, must be very extraordinary in that cold country. The great fishery at Black-rock, on Niagara river, is one of the best discovered in fresh water.

"All are but parts of one stupendous whole,  
Whose body nature is, and God the soul."

DAVID COOLEY, JUN.,

*Benington, State of Vermont, 1810.*

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*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

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ON THE POISON OF LEAD; BY A. FOTHERGILL, M.D. F.R.S. EXTRACTED FROM AN ESSAY ENTITLED, "CAUTIONS TO THE HEADS OF FAMILIES."

THE extensive use of lead in various forms, enables it to assail all the avenues of life. Sometimes it attacks the human frame by an open assault, but more frequently it makes inroads into the constitution as a secret unsuspected enemy. Various causes conspire to favour its introduction into the system. The arts of chemistry, of medicine, and even of cookery, have all successively lent their aid, insomuch that no person of whatever rank or station, from the prince to the peasant, can, at all times, pronounce himself perfectly secure against its silent depredations. Devoutly therefore, not lu-